

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of gas filling and sealing of a duct (7) intended to be filled with gas and positioned in a container (1) of a collapsible type, said duct (7) being defined by two opposite side walls (2) which are joined along a connecting portion (4), and comprising an inlet (15) arranged in one of the side walls (2), the method comprising:

~~characterised by~~

clamping a part of the container (1), which part comprises said inlet (15), between an abutment (17) and a gas module (20) which is axially movable towards the abutment (17), in such a manner that one of the two side walls (2) included in the duct (7) is allowed, in response to a gas flow supplied from the gas module (20) and entering the duct (7) through said inlet (15), to bulge to form a free passage into the duct (7) for filling the same with gas; and

after completion of the gas filling, sealing the duct (7).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A-~~The method as claimed in claim 1, in which said part of the container (1) is clamped by axial displacement of a nozzle and a packing means (22), which is arranged outside the same and associated with the gas module (20), in relation to said abutment (17).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A-~~The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the abutment (17) is formed with a recess (19) in its side facing the container (1) to allow said bulge.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A-~~The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the duct (7) is sealed by applying heat and pressure to the part of the duct (7) which abuts against the abutment (17).

5. (Currently Amended) A device for gas filling and sealing of a duct (7)-intended to be filled with gas and positioned in a container (1)-of a collapsible type, said duct (7)-being defined by two opposite side walls (2), which are joined along a common connecting portion (4), and comprising an inlet (15)-arranged in one of the side walls (2), the device comprising:

characterised by

an abutment (17); and

a gas module (20)-which is axially applicable to the abutment (17)-for abutment against a part of the container (1) and the inlet (15)-arranged therein, the gas module (20)-being arranged to fill the duct (7)-with gas through the inlet (15)-and to seal the duct after completion of the gas filling.

6. (Currently Amended) A-The device as claimed in claim 5, in which the gas module (20)-comprises a nozzle which is applicable to the inlet (15)-for supplying gas to the duct (7).

7. (Currently Amended) A-The device as claimed in claim 6, in which the gas module (20)-comprises a packing means (22)-which is arranged outside the nozzle and applicable to the abutment (17)-to seal around the nozzle.

8. (Currently Amended) A-The device as claimed in claims 6 and 7, in which the nozzle and the packing means (22)-are arranged on a common unit in the form of a first piston rod (21), said first piston rod (21)-comprising a bore (23)-for supplying gas to the duct (7)-through the nozzle.

9. (Currently Amended) A-The device as claimed in claim 5, in which the gas module (20)-comprises a sealing means (24)-which is adapted, after filling the duct (7)-arranged in the container (1)-with gas, to disconnect the inlet (15)-from the duct (7)-by sealing.

10. (Currently Amended) A-The device as claimed in claim 9, in which the sealing means (24)-comprises a mandrel (26)-which is axially engageable with a heating jaw (25).

11. (Currently Amended) A-The device as claimed in claim 10, in which the heating jaw (25) is arranged outside the abutment (17).

12. (Currently Amended) A-The device as claimed in claim 9, in which the mandrel (26) is arranged as a second piston rod (27) outside the first piston rod (21).

13. (Currently Amended) A-The device as claimed in claim 9, in which the mandrel (26) is arranged outside the abutment (17).

14. (Currently Amended) A-The device as claimed in claim 9, in which the heating jaw (25) is arranged as a second piston rod (27) outside the first piston rod (21).

15. (Currently Amended) A-The device as claimed in claim 8, in which the first piston rod (21) comprises an external lug (30) which, during a return stroke of the first piston rod (21), is engageable with the second piston rod (27) for returning the same.

16. (Currently Amended) A-The device as claimed in claim 5, in which the abutment (17) comprises a recess (19) formed in its plane and adapted to receive the bulge, resulting during filling of the duct (7) with gas, of at least one side wall (2).

17. (Currently Amended) A-The device as claimed in claim 5, in which the abutment (17) is made of a material with low thermal conductivity.

18. (Currently Amended) A-The device as claimed in claim 5, in which the abutment (17) comprises cooling means.

19-21. (Cancelled).

22. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the container is formed of a container blank, said container blank including the duct, characterised in that the duct includes:

a first segment which after gas filling provides a geometry desired in the container;

a second segment adjoining the first segment, said second segment having a significantly smaller cross-sectional area than the first segment ; and

a third segment adjoining the second segment and comprising an inlet to the duct.

23. (New) The method as claimed in claim 22, in which the inlet is a hole formed in one side wall.

24. (New) The method as claimed in claim 23, in which the third segment is arranged in connection with a duct means of the container blank , through which duct means the container blank is adapted to be filled with its contents.